

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-943

March 29, 1999

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
Informational Filings Required by  
Chapter 321 (Load Obligation and Settlement  
for Competitive Providers of Electricity)

ORDER APPROVING  
EXTENSION

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, DIAMOND Commissioners

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On March 1, 1999, Bangor Hydro-Electric Company (BHE) filed a request for a one-month extension of the March 1, 1999 deadline for submitting its line loss study as required by Section 9(C) of Chapter 321 of the Commission's Rules. As its reason for the request, BHE cited "time constraints."

On February 26, 1999, Maine Public Service Company (MPS) filed a statement advising the Commission that its line loss study would not be completed within the required deadline, but would be filed on April 1.

On February 26, 1999, Consulting Engineers Group, Inc. (CEG), consultants conducting line loss studies for the consumer-owned utilities in Maine,<sup>1</sup> filed a statement advising the Commission that its line loss studies are unlikely to be completed by the end of March. CEG states that the studies are progressing, that the smaller utilities have limited resources, and that there has been delay in obtaining necessary system data. CEG anticipates completion dates in May. CEG further advises that it has previously discussed its timetable with Commission Staff and understands that the Commission would favor complete submissions after March over incomplete but timely submissions.

Pursuant to Section 10 of Chapter 321, the Director of Technical Analysis may waive any requirements of the Chapter that are not required by statute and that are not inconsistent with the purposes of the Chapter or Title 35-A, where good cause exists.

In citing time constraints as their reason for requiring a deadline extension, BHE, MPS and CEG have demonstrated good cause for their inability to comply with Section 9 of Chapter 321. The Commission is cognizant of the increased workload created by the introduction of retail competition on March 1, 2000. The line loss calculations will not be used on March 1, so no harm results from extending the deadline by one month.

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<sup>1</sup>CEG states that they are conducting line loss studies for Houlton Water Company, Madison Electric Works, Fox Island Electric cooperative, Kennebunk Light and Power, Van Buren Light and Power, and Swans Island Electric Cooperative. CEG was subsequently retained by Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative.

Time beyond one month, as requested by CEG, is unlikely to cause harm for the consumer-owned utilities.

Line loss calculations are likely to be needed to allow standard offer bidders to estimate their bids for standard offer service. During June, the Commission will gather data to include in the standard offer bid package, which will be issued on August 1, 1999. BHE's and MPS's requested filing deadline of April 1 allows adequate time for the Commission to review and approve the line loss studies before June, if necessary. Our understanding of consumer-owned utilities' plans for standard offer service in their territories leads us to believe that line loss calculations will be less important to bidders for that service.

Accordingly it is,

**O R D E R E D**

An extension of the filing deadline for BHE's and MPS's line loss studies until April 15 is hereby granted. An extension of the filing deadline until June 15 is hereby granted to the consumer-owned utilities for which CEG is preparing line loss studies.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 29th day of March, 1999.

**BY ORDER OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR,  
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION**

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Faith Huntington